

(Washington, DC)— Congresswoman Moore and U.S. Senators Kohl and Feingold announced on Friday that \$80 million in federal funding has been designated for the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail. The money is included in the Transportation Reauthorization bill that funds the nation's transportation system for the next five years. A joint Senate/House Conference Committee, which resolves the differences between the Senate and the House versions of the bill, has included these funds in the bill. The House passed the bill this morning and the Senate is expected to take up the bill later today where swift approval is expected. Senators Kohl and Feingold and Congresswoman Moore had identified the commuter rail as a priority for funding.

"A new commuter rail line which strengthens the regional ties between the communities of southeastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois can help our area attract and retain good jobs," said Congresswoman Moore. "And besides the fact that my communities of Cudahy, St. Francis, and South Milwaukee will gain important new access to this passenger rail option, this \$80 million project will mean the creation of jobs for people in our area."

"The Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail is an important project that will help lessen traffic congestion but also act as a catalyst for economic growth," said Sen. Kohl. "I am proud of the efforts of Senator Feingold and Congresswoman Moore and myself in designating federal funds for this vital project for South East Wisconsin."

"The extension of Metra's line through Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee is an important regional link that will take cars off the road, saving precious time and fuel now wasted in traffic. Along with securing over \$16 million for buses and bus facilities statewide, I am pleased that we were able to work with the entire delegation to provide for the transit needs of Wisconsin, along with funds for highways and bridges."

The Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail will be a new 33-mile extension of Metra's Union Pacific North line to Milwaukee's Amtrak station. A new line would be designed to make new stops in Somers, Racine, Caledonia, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, and Cudahy-St. Francis. The Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail will help provide an alternative to the congested freeway system between Milwaukee and Chicago. It will help create additional transportation and economic links between Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Chicago, and other communities in southeastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois.

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